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AUTHOR	Berlak, Ann; Moyenda, Sekani
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ABSTRACT

This book chronicles two teachers and their own educational progress in antiracist education. When one, a female African American elementary school teacher, accepted an invitation from the other, a White college professor, to speak to her graduate preservice teacher education class (a required multicultural education course), an explosive classroom incident occurred. This book highlights the incident and its aftermath. The incident, a role-playing activity, brought to the foreground deeply held beliefs and prejudices not previously voiced by students in this classroom. The authors explore these currents through their own autobiographical writings, reflective discussions about the incident, and student reactions, journals, and essays. The book offers tools to help teachers think through their own practices as educators. The collection of accounts show the nature of racism in the classroom and what can be done to weaken its hold on individuals and society. In part 1, "Our Racial Autobiographies," the teachers discuss "How I Got My 'Black Attitude' Problem" and "How I Developed an 'Obduracy of Tone.'" In part 2, "All Right, Who Started It?" the teachers describe the classroom encounter and its aftermath. In part 3, "What's Going On Here?" the teachers analyze the situation. (SM)

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